

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



Page 1

Week of April 26th– May 2nd



## COMMUNITY ALERT

**Milwaukee Caucus  
Budget Update and  
Listening Session**

Saturday, May 9th  
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Loos Room  
Centennial Hall Complex  
Milwaukee Public  
Library

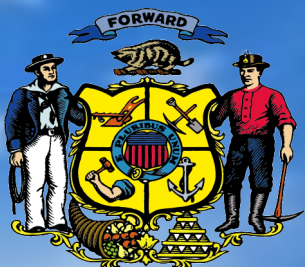
733 North Eighth St

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always,  
I'm Here to  
Serve

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lena".


***Stolen Valor Legislation Considered***

This week, the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety heard a bill aimed at addressing those that falsely claim military service or honors. In the spirit of the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 introduced at the federal level, the Wisconsin proposal is Senate Bill 95. Specifically, the bill states that any person who falsely claims the above with the intent to obtain a tangible financial or other tangible benefit would be guilty of a crime. Under the bill, a person who does this would be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, unless the false claim is made to commit or assist another crime. Under that situation, the person would be guilty of a class H felony. Whether it be stealing from veterans, like Timothy Russell, a former aide to Governor Walker, or impersonating a soldier to fraudulently seek donations, we must do everything we can to protect the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country. I am a proud co-sponsor of the legislation, which received a 5 - 0 vote, garnering bi-partisan support.


***GOP Push Supermarket Nanny Bill***


On Thursday, the Assembly Committee on Public Benefits Reform held a public hearing on AB177, which would limit the food that may be purchased under FoodShare. There is agreement that we must ensure fraud prevention in our state programs, but that's about where our agreement on this topic ends. This is small-government Republicans turning Wisconsin into a big-government "nanny state." This bill violates federal law and has been labeled the "Supermarket nanny bill" for its overreaching efforts to legislate what's for dinner. The money we would spend defending these illegal bills in court would likely buy thousands of meals. Everyone who supports these bills should have to eat for just one month on FoodShare. Not only does this bill prevent FoodShare recipients from purchasing things like shell fish they likely can't afford, such as lobster and crab, but it also prevents these Wisconsinites from purchasing certain kinds of cheeses. Are these legislators willing to put the same food restrictions upon how their legislative per diem can be spent?



## Motorcycle Safety Week

### • Safety Day

Southeast Sales (Honda-Kawasaki-KTM)  
6930 N. 76th St.  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### • Bike Blessing

Kingdom Warriors Riders  
for Christ  
1170 W. Windlake Ave. 1  
p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Both events are open to the public.**

## Senator Taylor's Office

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Rm 19 South, State Capitol

### Mailing Address:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

**Contact Us!**

**We Enjoy Hearing From You!**

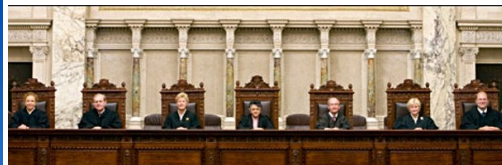


## ***Our Nation's Struggle to Get it Right***

Our nation is once again grappling with the questionable death of an African-American man at the hands of law enforcement. Much like our predecessors in the fight for civil rights, we too have marched, some have rioted, we have cried and we have prayed. Wisconsin made history last legislative session when we enacted the first state law in the nation requiring an independent investigation in the event of such a tragedy. The bipartisan effort eliminated the long-held tradition of local police departments investigating their own officers involved in situations that come under review. Friday morning, six Baltimore police officers were charged in the death of Freddie Gray. Nothing can replace the need for a fair justice system. Many African-Americans know all too well, that regardless of their education, economic status, title or position, they could still be subject to disparate treatment. As we work towards restoring peace and finding solutions within the community, we need an honest commitment from leadership, at every level, to create accountable systems that respect and protect the rights of all.



## ***Upheaval at High Court***



Earlier this week, Pat Roggensack was elected by a majority of her colleagues to serve as the new Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This election comes after the passage of the April 7 referendum which gives justices of the State Supreme Court the right to elect their own leader instead of giving the position to the member with the greatest seniority, has had formally been the rule. The referendum, was effective upon certification, forced out Justice Shirley Abramson. Abramson fought to keep the position until her term ends in 2019 by suing her fellow six justices. Ultimately unsuccessful, Abramson views herself as the correct Chief Justice and there is a concern for many throughout the state that the referendum and her removal was nothing more than a way for the conservative justice to hold more power.

## ***Wise Words of the Week!***

*"It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."*

*- James A. Baldwin*